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## **National association names Senator Beverly Hammerstrom 'State Legislator of the Year'**

**LANSING** – The American Association of Oriental Medicine (AAOM) recently named Michigan state Sen. Beverly Hammerstrom its 2006 “State Legislator of the Year.”

The AAOM honored Hammerstrom for sponsoring Public Act 30 of 2006, an act which provides for the registration of acupuncturists. Michigan now joins more than 40 other states that have enacted legislation to regulate this form of ancient medicine.

Hammerstrom, chair of the Senate Health Policy Committee, introduced the legislation in an effort to ensure that residents who choose this type of alternative medicine can be certain their practitioners have met Michigan’s regulatory standards.

“It is an honor to receive this recognition from an association that shares my dedication toward making the full spectrum of health care options available to consumers in a safe and affordable manner,” Hammerstrom said.

The AAOM also named Hammerstrom’s Chief of Staff, Amy Zaagman, its “Legislative Staffer of the Year” for her efforts with the bill. In addition, Deborah Lincoln, RN, was named “Acupuncturist of the Year” and Stephanie Wuttke, of Capitol Service, Inc., was named “Lobbyist of the Year.”

The AAOM credits them for assisting Hammerstrom in getting the bill through the Legislature and noted that this is the first time the national organization has selected individuals from the same state for all of their awards.

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Editor’s note: A photo is available on the Web at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/photowire/Hammerstrom/Hammerstrom.htm>